

March 12 2021

Noticias y Notas

News and notes from the Second Judicial District Court

SJDC holding civil trials at South Valley Multipurpose Senior Center

Balancing the need to continue COVID-safe practices with its obligation to keep the wheels of justice turning, the Civil Division of the Second Judicial District has started holding trials at a South Valley community center.



Judge Joshua Allan presided over a mock trial last October in preparation for holding real trials at the South Valley Multipurpose Senior Center this year.

“The need for an offsite locale to hold civil trials became apparent last summer as we responded to the Supreme Court’s request to prepare a plan for the resumption of jury trials,” said Beatrice Brickhouse, Presiding Judge of Second Judicial District Court’s Civil Division.

Noting that it is common for civil trials to involve multiple plaintiffs and/or defendants, as well as multiple attorneys representing those parties, Judge Brickhouse said the need for social distancing would make it difficult to hold such trials in a regular courtroom in the downtown courthouse.

“If we didn’t find a larger space, it is possible that many civil trials could have ground to a halt,” she said.

The Supreme Court issued its first order pausing civil jury trials on March 11, 2020. A week later, that order was expanded to include criminal jury trials. After courts across the state developed plans to incorporate safety measures into trial procedures, including jury selection, the Supreme Court issued an order for both civil and criminal jury trials to resume between June 15 and July 15, 2020.

As COVID case counts began rising across the state in the fall, the Supreme Court, on November 13, 2020, ordered a halt to all trials for the rest of the year. On December 14, 2020, the Supreme Court said jury trials could resume in February of 2021. **For the rest of the story, [click here](#).**



Shout outs



This the space where we sound the horn for outstanding performances.

This week’s shout out goes to the **Tony Lucero in the Children’s Court Division of the Court Clerk’s Office**. Tony’s work is so consistently excellent that Presiding Children’s Court Judge Marie Ward complimented him in a message to Monica Baca, Deputy CEO for the Clerk’s Office. Here is part of Judge Ward’s message, “I just wanted to express my appreciation for Tony and his incredible work. He is on top of everything, brings matters to my attention quickly and is proactive so we can keep cases moving forward. He has excellent communication skills and I am grateful for his assistance.”

All we can add is, **Tony, you deserve a Shout Out!**

There is still time to take the challenge.

Daylight saving time starts Sunday. That means more time to enjoy the outdoors after work. Why not use some of that time getting ready for the SJDC 5K Challenge. The race opens Friday, April 2. That is now less than a month away. Now is the time to get moving. There are new training tips on the race website.

Click [Here](#) to Find The SJDC 5K Challenge Website



We are starting a new feature this week. Once a month, we will acknowledge those employees who are celebrating a birthday during the month. We start with March birthdays. There are so many we had to add an extra page. So, scroll down to see who you should say Happy Birthday to this month.

Gabriel Olivares	Certified Court Monitor
Rebecca Thomas	Paralegal, Center for Self Help
Darlene Cook	Bailiff, Family Court
Ty Lam	IT Specialist, Senior
Steven Lohkamp	Judicial Specialist 2, Jury
Mychele Marston-Romero	TCAA, Civil Court
Saundra Sanchez	HR Operations Manager
Christina Betancourt	Pretrial Services Officer 2
Emely Gonzales Alcala	Certified Court Monitor
Charlene Montoya	TCAA, Civil Court
Debra Ramirez	Family Court Judge
Estevan Garcia	Judicial Specialist 2, Children's Division
Edna Krause	Judicial Specialist 2, Civil Division
Patricia Flores	Bailiff, Criminal Court
Sara Scripp	Court Clinician 1



Here are the remaining March Birthdays.
Best wishes to you all.

Elaine Lujan	Attorney Associate, Civil Court
Janet Van Why	Administrative Assistant 2, Human Resources
Katina Watson	Court Executive Officer
Patricia Reyes	Bailiff, Children's Court
Mark Macaron	Judicial Specialist Leadworker, Domestic Violence Division
Bruce Fox	Criminal Court Judge
Rosanna Jaramillo	Senior IT Specialist
Anthony Lukesh	Certified Court Monitor Lead
Paula Lucero	Bailiff, Criminal Court
Paula Rogers	Judicial Specialist 2, Civil Division
Joseph Montano	Criminal Court Judge
Rosa Lopez-Gaston	Court Interpreter Supervisor
Elizabeth Rourke	Domestic Relations Hearing Officer
Francine Teran	Judicial Specialist 2, Domestic Relations Division